

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Hang Zhang et al.
Serial No. 10/020,834
Filed: 12/13/2001
For: **PHYSICAL LAYER ASSISTED RETRANSMISSION**

Examiner: Haliyur, Venkatesh N.
Art Unit: 2664

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 OF CURT DODD

1. My name is Curt Dodd and I am Intellectual Property Counsel at Nortel Networks, Ltd. (hereinafter "Nortel"), the assignee of the present application. I am presently the in-house attorney at Nortel responsible for the prosecution of the present application, Patent Application Serial No. 10/020,834, entitled "**PHYSICAL LAYER ASSISTED RETRANSMISSION**" (hereinafter "Present Application"). I have reviewed the file at Nortel containing the documents relating to the Present Application.

2. The Invention Disclosure for the present application was completed by the inventor, Hang Zhang, on November 21, 2000 (see Invention Disclosure, redacted to remove personal and confidential information, entitled "Physical-Layer-Assisted Fast NAK for RLP in Wireless Access Networks", attached as Appendix A).

3. The Invention Disclosure was reviewed according to the standard review process at Nortel, in which invention disclosures are reviewed in essentially a chronological, first-in-first-out fashion to determine whether to proceed with a patent application for the invention disclosure.

4. In January 2001, the Invention Disclosure was given initial approval and was designated to be outsourced to the law firm of Smart & Biggar for a patent application to be prepared for the Invention Disclosure.

5. On or about March 22, 2001, information was received from the inventors that the invention described in the Invention Disclosure was to be included in a submission to a standards body at some future date. A disposition memo was prepared by Jaspreet Harit, one of my colleagues, and the in-house attorney at Nortel who was responsible for the Invention Disclosure at that time, on or about March 22, 2001, that summarized the invention of the Present Application as evidenced by the Invention Disclosure Disposition attached to this Declaration as Appendix B.

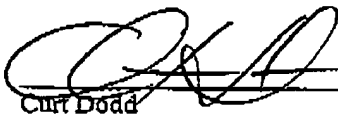
6. Beginning at some point prior to March 22, 2001, the inventors diligently worked toward reducing the invention to practice in conjunction with their work on the draft standards submission that encompassed the invention described in the Invention Disclosure. This work continued throughout 2001, at least until the filing of the Present Application on December 13, 2001.

7. At some point after March 22, 2001, Nortel's relationship with the outside law firm, Smart & Biggar, which was retained to prepare a patent application for the invention described in the Invention Disclosure, changed. As a result, Nortel, through its patent department, made the decision to have a different law firm prepare the patent application for the invention described in the Invention Disclosure.


8. On or about September 10, 2001, my colleague Jaspreet Harit, sent instructions to Benjamin S. Withrow of the firm Withrow & Terranova, PLLC to prepare and file a patent application for the Invention Disclosure. The Invention Disclosure was assigned attorney docket number 7000-105.

9. Upon information and belief, starting on or about September 10, 2001 and continuing through November 9, 2001, Mr. Withrow diligently reviewed the Invention Disclosure, met with the inventor Hang Zhang, and diligently worked to prepare a patent application (hereinafter "Patent Application") claiming the invention disclosed in the Invention Disclosure.

10. Upon information and belief, Mr. Withrow completed a First Draft of the Patent Application on November 9, 2001, and sent it to the inventors.
11. Upon information and belief, on November 26, 2001, Mr. Withrow revised the Patent Application to incorporate the comments from the inventors for the First Draft, and sent a revised Patent Application to in-house counsel at Nortel.
12. Upon information and belief, the revised Patent Application was reviewed in the standard fashion by the Nortel patent department, in which draft applications are reviewed in essentially a chronological, first-in-first-out fashion.
13. On December 12, 2001, approval was given by in-house counsel at Nortel to Mr. Withrow to file the Patent Application substantially as drafted in the Patent Application sent to in-house counsel on November 26, 2001.
14. On December 13, 2001, the Patent Application was filed at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office and was assigned Application Serial Number 10/020,834.
15. I hereby declare that all declarations made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.


Curt Dodd

August 14/06
Date

2/ DECLARED 
SWORN BEFORE ME IN THE
CITY OF OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA
THIS 14TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2006

Thomas W.E. Frouse
THOMAS W.E. FROUSE, NOTARY PUBLIC

Appendix A

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**Nortel Networks Confidential & Privileged Information****Invention Disclosure Submission Reply***sw*

Disc No.		Resubmission	20 nov 2000
Physical-Layer-Assisted Fast NAK for RLP in Wireless Access Networks			

———— Inventors ————

HR Name	Address	City	State
HR Name: ZHANG, HANG			
HR Name: FONG, MO-HAN			
HR Name: EARNSHAW, MARK			
HR Name: HUANG, WEI			

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**Nortel Networks Confidential & Privileged Information****Technical Information****Problem Statement of the Invention**

The objective of wireless access network Radio Link Protocol (RLP) ARQ schemes is to provide improved radio link quality by implementing a retransmission mechanism for non-delay-sensitive services and applications. An IP-aware RLP design allows a RLP frame to encapsulate an IP packet or fragment of a IP packet. Each RLP frame header includes a sequence number to maintain the integrity of RLP frames flowing over the wireless link. In a NAK-based RLP ARQ scheme, after identifying the loss of a RLP frame at the receiver side RLP, a NAK message is sent to the transmitter side RLP. This NAK message triggers a retransmission of the RLP frame by the transmitter side RLP. A lost RLP frame is identified by checking the sequence numbers. For example, the receptions of RLP frame No. n and No. $n+2$ in a row means that RLP frame No. $n+1$ was lost. After receiving RLP frame No. $n+2$, the receiver side RLP sends a NAK for frame No. $n+1$. In a high-speed wireless Internet access system, packet inter-arrival times may be wide-spread due to the high burstiness (non-stream-like nature) of packet applications. If packet No. $n+2$ arrives at the receiver a relatively long time after packet No. n , then the receiver RLP will take a longer period of time to identify the possible loss of packet No. $n+1$. This results in a longer wireless link delay for packet No. $n+1$. Also, for a wireless access system with a shared flat downlink channel, the scheduler can cause a similar problem as described above. For example, the scheduler may schedule packet No. $n+2$ a long time after scheduling packet No. $n+1$ due to the real-time traffic load, scheduling algorithms, etc. This invention investigates a physical-layer-assisted method to speed up the identification of a lost RLP frame and to decrease the delay of RLP frames needing retransmission.

Advantages of the Invention

See above.

Summary of the Invention

There are some existing methods to solve this problem. Qualcomm solution (NAK-based): After sending a frame, a timer is initiated at the sender RLP side. If the next frame is scheduled before the timer expiration, this timer is reset. Otherwise, upon the expiration of the timer, the sender side RLP transmits a RLP control message which indicates the last octet sent so far (such a RLP control message will be protected with a higher level of reliability than is the data traffic). The receiver RLP then checks if it has received all of the transmitted data. If the last octet in the control message is larger than that in the data which has been received so far, then apparently one or more RLP frames have been lost. This triggers an immediate NAK message. In this way, the receiver side RLP does not have to wait until the next RLP frame's arrival before it knows if any RLP frames have been lost. The timer value is fixed and is non-QoS based. Nortel's solution: After sending an RLP frame, two timers are initiated at the sender RLP side. If the first timer is allowed to expire, it means that the sender does not yet know whether or not the receiver has a valid copy of the RLP frame. An ACK REQ signal is sent to the receiver asking it for the sequence number of the most recent RLP frame received. If no response is obtained before the second timer expires, the sender assumes that the receiver does not have a copy of that RLP frame and retransmits it. The timers are cancelled if the transmitter is able to determine either that the receiver has a copy of the RLP frame in question or will be requesting it via the NAK procedure. Periodic ACK signals may also be sent by the receiver to reduce the overall amount of signaling over the wireless link. The timer values are set according to the desired QoS delay bounds for the data traffic being transmitted. These solutions improve delay performance. However, there is still some room for further enhancement. The proposed enhancement here is expected to further shorten packet delay for packets which require retransmission. Timer values in this algorithm are set depending on packet QoS.

Specific Elements or Steps in a Solution to the Problem Addressed by the Invention

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This proposal is a physical-layer-assisted and QoS-based solution and can be used on top of both existing solutions. RLP frames need to be retransmitted in two different situations. In the first case (Case 1, representing much less than 1% chance of happening), the transmitted RLP frames are totally lost and the receiver cannot detect any signal. In the second case (Case 2, representing more than 99% chance of happening), the signal can be received but the received frame is in error (user ID can be detected correctly, see assumption (1) below). For Case 2, the physical layer can send a primitive to the RLP to inform it that a damaged RLP frame has been detected. This primitive will trigger an immediate NAK message to the sender and in this way, a corrupted RLP frame can be NAK-ed much more quickly than via any of the other available solutions. The steps for this proposal are described as follows: (1) Assumption: user ID information related to each RLP frame can be detected correctly with a much higher level of reliability than for data traffic. This can be accomplished either by using a more robust modulation and coding scheme for greater protection or by each user's particular preamble for forward link demodulation (e.g. Qualcomm's HDR). (2) Enhancement to Qualcomm's solution: (refer to Fig. 1) a. Upon sending a RLP frame, a timer with a fixed value is set for this RLP frame at the sender side. b. At the receiver side, if the physical layer identifies a corrupted RLP frame, it sends a primitive to the RLP immediately to indicate that a corrupted frame has been identified. c. The receiver side RLP sends a NAK to the sender RLP to indicate the last octet received so far. d. Upon received the NAK, the sender RLP resets timer of that RLP frame. It then retransmits the lost frame and set a timer for the retransmitted frame upon the retransmission done. e. At the receiver side, in case the physical layer cannot even detect a RLP frame due to severe fading, the original solution will kick in to recover the lost. At the timer expiration, the sender RLP transmits a message showing the last octet sent so far. So the receiver will know if there is any RLP frame missing after this message. (3) Enhancement to Nortel's solution: (refer to Fig. 2) a. After sending a RLP frame, the sender side RLP sets a QoS-dependent timer value based on the QoS of the RLP frame. b. At the receiver side, if the physical layer identifies a corrupted RLP frame, it sends a primitive to the RLP immediately to indicate that a corrupted frame has been identified. c. The receiver side RLP sends a NAK to the sender side RLP to indicate the last octet received so far. d. Upon received the NAK, the sender RLP resets the timer of that RLP frame and retransmits the lost frame based on the QoS-aware RLP ARQ algorithm and set a timer for the retransmitted frame upon the retransmission done. e. At the receiver, if the physical layer cannot even detect this RLP frame due to severe fading, then go back to original solution: At the timer expiration, the sender RLP sends a message asking for the last sequence number received so far. The receiver side replies with its last known sequence number and this will trigger a retransmission round. With this enhancement, the net delay of RLP frames which require retransmission can be expected to be shortened. For a lost frame, with a conservative assumption that case 2 happens with more than 99% probability and case 1 happens with much less than 1% probability, the delay performance for packets which require retransmission can be improved in 99% of the retransmission cases. When this proposal is applied to RLP ARQ schemes where the ARQ parameters are fixed (e.g., round of retransmissions and number of copies for each retransmission), this proposal can be flexibly adapted to those schemes. For example, if the number of copies of each retransmission round is no larger than 3, the receiver side RLP will send a NAK only if it receives, e.g., three primitives in row.

Technical benefits: Improves the delay performance of the wireless link, thereby aiding in improving QoS-delay performance and support multiple QoSs. Simplifies the signaling procedure for retransmissions, and consequently decreases the signaling message load. Commercial benefits: Added value to Nortel's patent profile for current 3G systems and future wireless access systems. Contribution to current 3G standards and future wireless access network (e.g., mobile or fixed) standards.

Appendix B

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**NORTEL NETWORKS CONFIDENTIAL and ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED****INVENTION DISCLOSURE DISPOSITION (IDD)**

Disclosure No.	Line of Business: WI
Disclosure Title: Physical-Layer-Assisted Fast NAK for RLP in Wireless Access Networks	Product Group: VP & IP Prime
Inventors: H. Zhang et al.	Reviewed By: Ottawa Patent Review Board
Product/Project:	
Marketing Prime:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nortel Inventors only <input type="checkbox"/> Nortel and Contractor Inventors

REVIEW SUMMARY**GIST OF THE INVENTION**

Summarize within a few lines what the major thrust of the invention is (e.g., a software program to be added to voice networks, such as Meridian, which will allow instantaneous translations from French to English).

—Physical-layer-assisted method which speeds up the identification of a lost radio link protocol (RLP) frame and decreases the delay of RLP frames requiring transmission.

BENEFIT FROM THE INVENTION

Summarize within a few lines how the invention will benefit its target benefactor (e.g., subscribers able to retrieve multi-lingual messages without use of additional time consuming translation processes).

--Delay performance of the wireless link is improved, thereby aiding in improving QoS delay performance and the support of multiple QoS. Simplifies signaling procedure for retransmissions, consequently decreasing signaling message load.

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FINAL DISPOSITION

- ☒ File Patent Application -- Target Filing Date: _____
☐ Combine with/include in Disclosure No.: _____
- ☐ Reconsider/Table (see comments below)
☐ Other (e.g., publish, Tech. Licensing, etc.)

Comments:

Critical Filing Date (If Applicable):

Foreign Filing: ☐ No – File No Further Filing Certification
 (Initial Determination) ☒ Yes to be reassessed closer to one year foreign filing deadline

(circle) Tier 1 _____ Tier 2: _____
 (GB, DE, FR, CA, _____) (Please specify)

Completed by: J. Horit Dated: 22 March 2001

Approved by: _____ Dated: _____
 (Revised March 16, 2001)